

Hello,

I am writing to urge in the strongest possible terms that the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) be extended. Building, installing, and maintaining the mechanisms needed for production of wind energy will create good paying jobs for Americans at a time when they are desperately needed. Entrepreneurs who create these mechanisms will help produce additional jobs.

And wind energy has few environmental drawbacks. It is eternally renewable, and American wind will be creating the energy for America's use. Clearly, at present, wind energy is not enough to meet all of America's energy needs--and may never be a "magic bullet" that will solve every energy problem we face. Such "magic bullets" will probably never exist. But all that means is that many partial solutions will need to be employed in order to replace (in the long term) and reduce America's dependence on (in the short term) fossil fuels and other environmentally damaging sources of energy we currently rely on.

The geopolitical impact of even a modest percentage of America's energy usage coming from wind power cannot be underestimated. Neither can the short-term and long-term business opportunities which sustainable energy sources (such as wind energy) will afford us.

One may argue about the timing, but the end of "easy oil" (and coal, and other non-renewable energy sources) is by definition inevitable. Sustainable sources of energy must be supported, developed, and built into the lifestyles of Americans and American culture; sooner or later, this will have to happen if America plans to have any access to energy at levels anything like what we currently use.

Planning ahead for this inevitable day would be a strategic move for the U.S. Congress. Failing to plan for it will simply mean a more painful (and potentially violent) transition to sustainable energy when the oil does run out (or, more immediately, when oil--and related energy products--become inordinately expensive for daily use for most Americans).

Again, I urge in the most powerful language possible that the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) be extended.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Tom Hilgartner

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